

(WASHINGTON) — U.S. Representative Mike Coffman has been named as a recipient of the 2012 Thomas Jefferson Award by the International Foodservice Distributors Association (IFDA). The award honors the legislator's work to strengthen our nation's economic prosperity and the free enterprise system.

During each Congress, IFDA presents the Thomas Jefferson Award to Senators and Members of Congress who demonstrate their commitment to increasing opportunity and reducing government regulation. The Award is based on voting records on issues critical to the prosperity of the foodservice distribution industry and our nation's overall economy. Recipients of the Award have shown their dedication to restoring our nation's economic and fiscal health during the 112th Congress.

"Representative Coffman's votes in the 112th Congress demonstrate a belief in the free market system and commitment to stimulating economic growth through strengthening the private sector. The Thomas Jefferson Award is the foodservice distribution industry's way of recognizing and thanking legislators who stand true to the ideals of Thomas Jefferson by working to protect America's businesses and reducing the involvement of government in our economy," said IFDA President and CEO Mark S. Allen. "Our nation faces a number of critical challenges and Representative Coffman and all of the Thomas Jefferson Award recipients have answered the call to help return our nation to prosperity."

Recipients of the award supported IFDA's position on at least 70 percent of 9 House votes deemed critical to the foodservice distribution industry and the Jeffersonian ideals of free enterprise. These included votes on the Repealing the Job-Killing Healthcare Law Act (HR 2), the Workforce Democracy and Fairness Act (HR 3094), and the 3% Withholding Repeal and Job Creation Act (HR 674) among others. The complete list of votes can be found on the IFDA web site www.ifdaonline.org.

The program, introduced in 1992, was inspired by Thomas Jefferson, who in his first inaugural address said, "A wise and frugal government ... shall leave men ... free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned. This is the sum of good government."

The award itself is a custom-crafted replica of Jefferson standing in his Memorial, framed by his four pillars of prosperity: agriculture, manufacturing, commerce, and navigation.

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